



# Department for Transport

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To: Environment Agency and  
all Interested Parties

Date: 21 September 2021

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Dear Sir/Madam

**Planning Act 2008 (as amended)** and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

Application by North Somerset District Council (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting Development Consent to construct a new railway on the trackbed of the former branch line from Bristol to Portishead including associated works (“the Proposed Development”)

## **REQUEST FOR COMMENTS FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES**

### **1. Update to the Environmental Information**

In response to questions 1(a) and 1(b) in the Secretary of State’s [letter of 13 August 2021](#) the Applicant provided a response and this has been published on the [project page](#) on the Planning Inspectorates website.

The Secretary of State would like to invite comments from all interested parties on the information provided by the Applicant.

### **2. Flood Risk Assessment for Portbury Ditch (Work Number 3)**

In response to question 2 in the Secretary of State's letter of 13 August 2021 , the Secretary of State notes from the [Applicant's letter](#) dated 26 August 2021 that since it has not been possible to complete an agreed Flood Risk Assessment, the Applicant and the Environment Agency are proposing to agree a variation to Requirement 27 of the Development Consent Order.

The Secretary of State requests confirmation from the Environment Agency that the proposed variation to Requirement 27 is agreed.

**The deadline for any response is 5 October 2021**

Responses to the matters outlined in this letter should be submitted by email to [Metrowest1@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:Metrowest1@planninginspectorate.gov.uk). Given the coronavirus (COVID-19) emergency, the Planning Inspectorate is currently unable to accept hard copies of consultation responses.

Your response will be published on the project page for the Portishead Branch Line – MetroWest Phase 1 on the Planning Inspectorate website as soon as possible after the above deadline for response at:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-west/portishead-branch-line-metrowest-phase-1/>

This letter is without prejudice to the Secretary of State's decision whether or not to grant development consent for the Portishead Branch Line – MetroWest Phase 1 and nothing in this letter is to be taken to imply what that decision might be.

Yours faithfully

Natasha Kopala